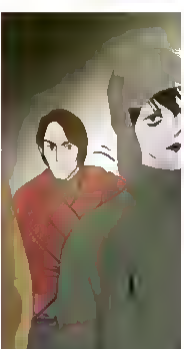
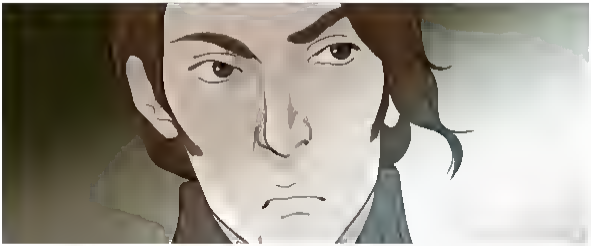
CREAK
CREAK





Winter Woods

104

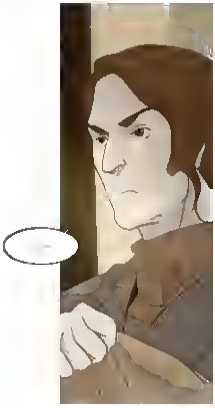
VEN!
FLUSH

LARRY!!!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING? CAN'T YOU CLEAN UP WHILE YOU'RE WATCHING THAT!? THE PLACE IS A PIGSTY!

WHY DON'T YOU DO IT? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LIKES CLEANING.

HMPH!! WHY'D I EVEN BOTHER ASKING!!!



...BY THE WAY, SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED.

I GUESS... IT WAS MORE LIKE STRANGE BEHAVIOR.

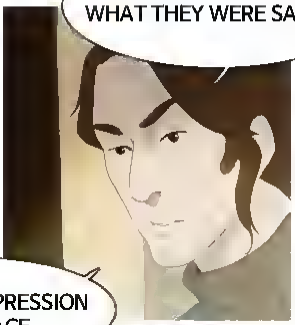
CHEW

CHEW

STRANGE BEHAVIOR?

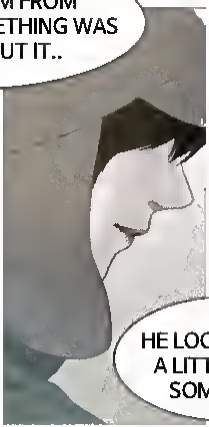
DIDN'T YOU SEE IT ON YOUR SCREEN? EL-1 HID THE CANE BEHIND HIS BACK!!

I COULDN'T HEAR WHAT THEY WERE SAYING,



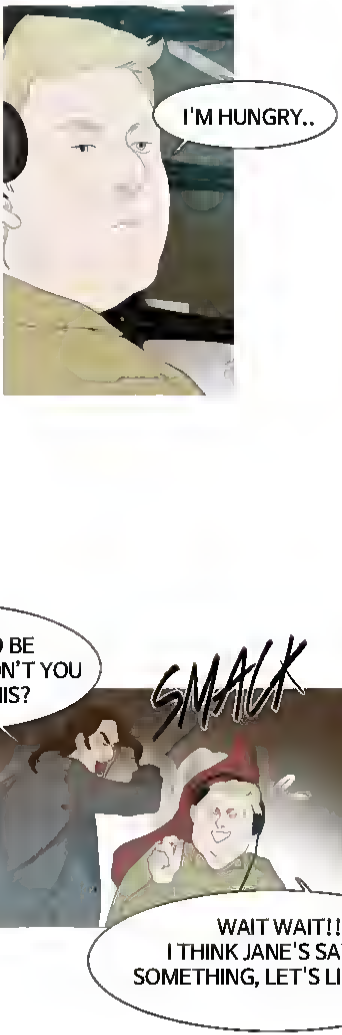
BUT THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE...

I ONLY SAW HIM FROM BEHIND, BUT SOMETHING WAS SO ODD ABOUT IT..



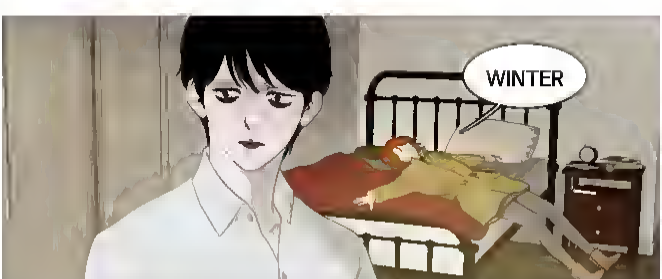
HE LOOKED LIKE... A LITTLE KID OR SOMETHING.

A LITTLE KID?
YEAH. LIKE A LITTLE KID PULLING THE WINGS OFF A DRAGONFLY OUT OF CURIOSITY... THAT KIND OF THING.
ANYWAY, IT MADE ME REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE.


I'M HUNGRY..
I'M TRYING TO BE SERIOUS! WHY DON'T YOU SNACK ON THIS?
SMACK
WAIT WAIT!! I THINK JANE'S SAYING SOMETHING, LET'S LISTEN IN!

HM?
PULL

UGH~
I'M SO TIRED...
FLOP


WINTER

COME HERE.
PAT
PAT

SIT DOWN.
TAP
TAP

PLOP

BOUNCE
BOUNCE
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HUH?!!!

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
WINTER-

JUMP
STOP IT!!
FREEZE

WHEW
YOU KNOW, ACTUALLY
I HEARD YOU AND ROY TALKING ABOUT LEAVING BEFORE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP LATELY AND I'VE BEEN SO TIRED.
TIRED

I'VE BEEN VERY MINDFUL OF YOU, WORRYING THAT YOU'D SUDDENLY TRY TO LEAVE...
TILT
??

BUT YOU KNOW I'VE TAKEN REALLY GOOD CARE OF YOU, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, THERE WAS A LITTLE PROBLEM TODAY, BUT ASIDE FROM THAT I'VE REALLY BEEN TRYING.
NOD

WE HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR LONG, SO I CAN SEE WHY YOU AND ROY CAN'T TRUST ME AND SARAH.
BUT I'D LIKE IT IF YOU AT LEAST TRUST ME, IF NOT SARAH.
I MEAN LIKE THE WAY I TRUST YOU.

DO YOU TRUST ME, JANE?

OF COURSE!

IF I DIDN'T, I WOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE PLANTS OF MINE!
WOULD I HAVE LEFT THAT SEED THERE AFTER I CAUGHT YOU TRYING TO STEAL IT?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I TRUST YOU.
...I SEE.
ANYWAY, I REALIZED THAT IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE SIGNED A CONTRACT TO LIVE TOGETHER.

SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.
SQUEEZE
WHAT IS IT?

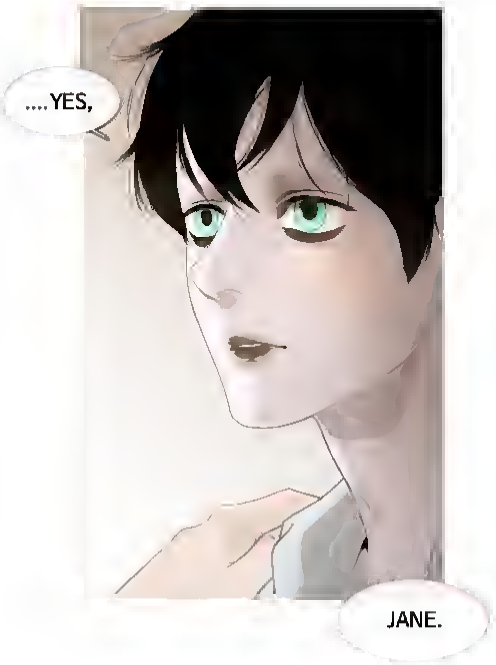
IF YOU'RE GONNA LEAVE, COULD YOU AT LEAST TELL ME FIRST?
DON'T JUST WALK OUT WITHOUT GIVING ME A WORD OF NOTICE.

THAT WAY I CAN PREPARE FOR IT.
OKAY, JANE. I'LL TELL YOU BEFORE I LEAVE.

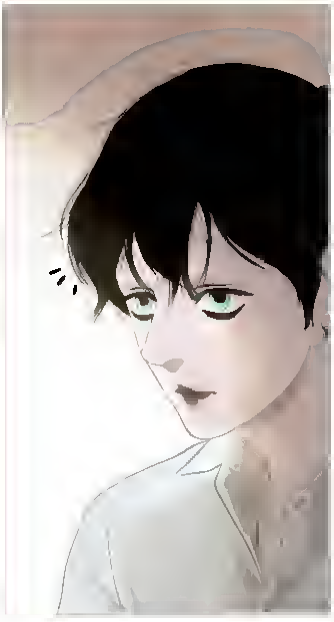
HMPH!!
I GUESS THAT'S
THE MOST I CAN
ASK FOR!!!
RUB
RUB

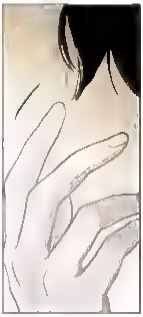
YOU MADE A PROMISE.

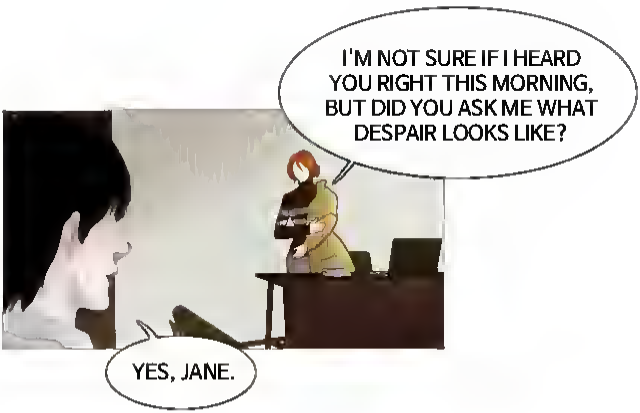
I DON"T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THIS ANY MORE, RIGHT?


....YES,
JANE.

WHEW~!!!
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A HUGE
WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED
OFF MY SHOULDERS!!






I'M NOT SURE IF I HEARD YOU RIGHT THIS MORNING, BUT DID YOU ASK ME WHAT DESPAIR LOOKS LIKE?
YES, JANE.

HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ALIVE FOR A LONG TIME?

THINKING

I MEAN, YOU MUST'VE SEEN LOTS OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS AROUND YOU DIE DURING THAT TIME.
DIDN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL ANYTHING?
DROP

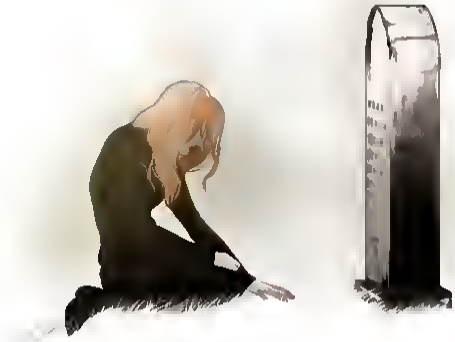
SHAKE
SHAKE
SIT
HM...

WHAT ABOUT YOUR MASTER? DIDN'T YOU SAY HIS EXPERIMENTS ALWAYS FAILED?

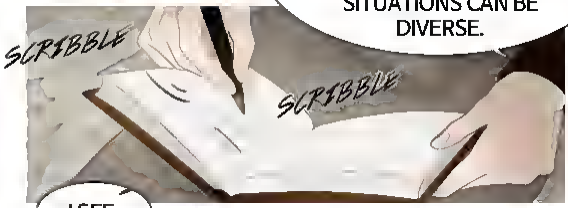
I'M NOT SURE.
HAHA... WELL...

I'LL TRY TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU AS BEST AS I CAN.

EVEN GETTING THROUGH THEIR DAILY LIVES CAN BE LIKE TORTURE.

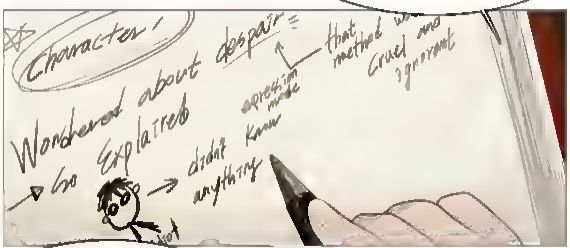


AND SINCE IT INVOLVES A WHOLE MIX OF CONFUSING EMOTIONS, EACH PERSON'S REACTION TO DIFFERENT SITUATIONS CAN BE DIVERSE.

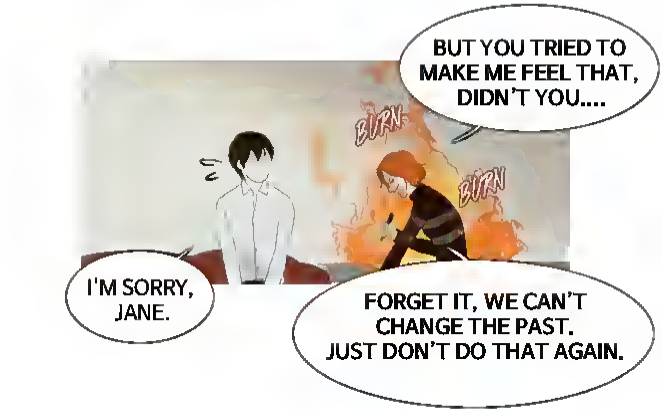


I SEE.

IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN DESPAIR SINCE IT CAN'T BE DEFINED IN ONE WORD, BUT ANYWAY, IT'S NOT GOOD.



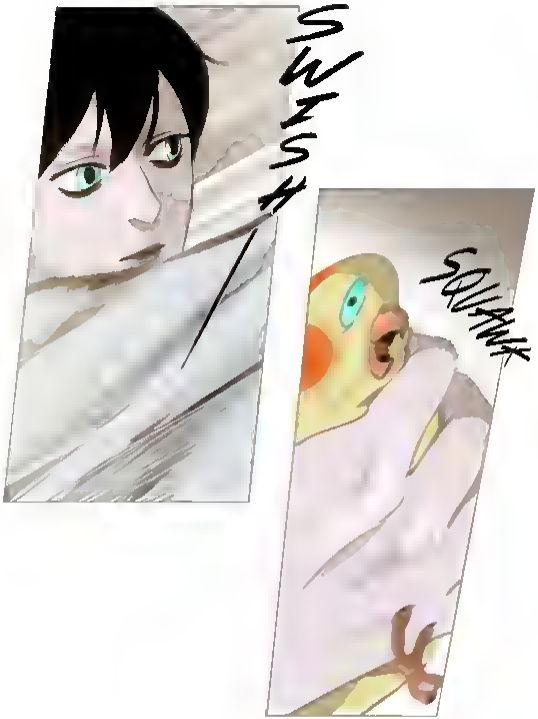
AND IT'S HARD TO BREAK FREE FROM.


BUT YOU TRIED TO MAKE ME FEEL THAT, DIDN'T YOU....
BURN
BURN
I'M SORRY, JANE.
FORGET IT, WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. JUST DON'T DO THAT AGAIN.

BY THE WAY, ROY SEEMS EXCEPTIONALLY QUIET TODAY...
FLUTTER

HUH?
CAW
CAW
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
CAW
CAW

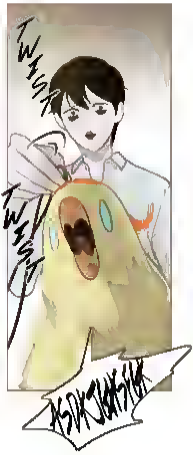
W-WHAT THE HELL?!!!
C-CAUGHT YOOOUUU!!!
WHI
SH
AAAAAHHH!!


SWISH
SQUAWK

COCKA DOODLE DOO~

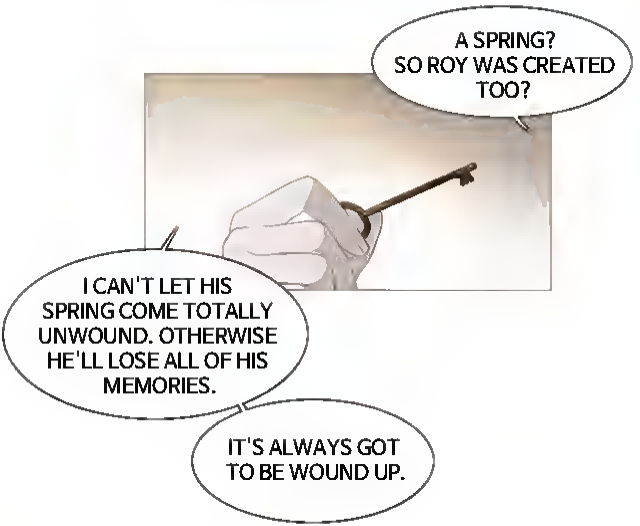
FLOP

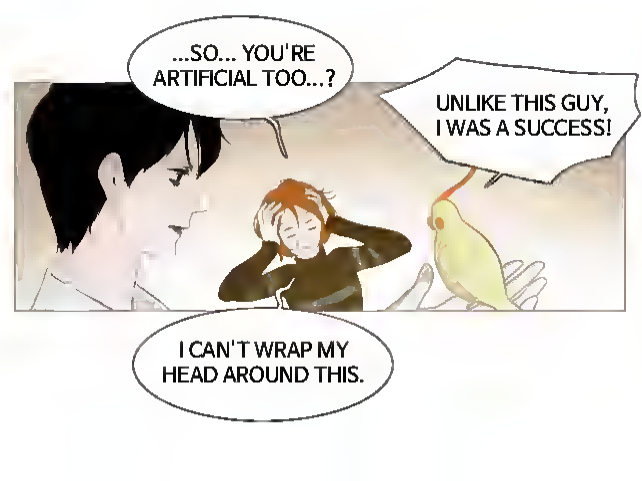
PART

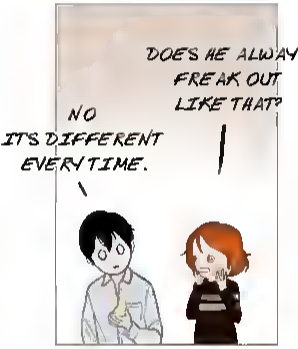

TWIST
TWIST

I'M ALIVE AGAIN!!!

W-WHAT THE... WHAT'S GOING ON...??
WHEN ROY'S SPRING UNWINDS, HE STARTS ACTING WEIRD.
POP
SHRINK
SO I'VE GOT TO WIND IT UP FOR HIM.


A SPRING?
SO ROY WAS CREATED TOO?
I CAN'T LET HIS SPRING COME TOTALLY UNWOUND. OTHERWISE HE'LL LOSE ALL OF HIS MEMORIES.
IT'S ALWAYS GOT TO BE WOUND UP.


...SO... YOU'RE ARTIFICIAL TOO...?
UNLIKE THIS GUY, I WAS A SUCCESS!
I CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THIS.


DOES HE ALWAYS FREAK OUT LIKE THAT?
NO IT'S DIFFERENT EVERY TIME.

STORY BY COSMOS

ART BY VAN JI

ASSISTANT HYENSEO LEE

TWITCH
SO~~ WHY DON'T WE CONTINUE TALKING ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE TELLING ME BEFORE?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

I'VE BEEN DYING TO FIND OUT MORE SINCE YOU LEFT OFF AT THAT PART ABOUT BEING BITTEN BY A WOLF!

THE RECORDER'S ON~
I'M ALL READY TO WRITE~~
START TALKING!

OKAY, JANE.